Satyajit Ray Film Institute

2946. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1019 on July 18, 1996 regarding Satyajit Ray Film Institute, Calcutta and state:

(a) the progress made so far on the said institute;

(b) the expected cost for its completion;

(c) the estimated number of students and teachers therein separately; and

(d) the time by which the courses are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The major part of the civil works of the project is expected to be completed by the end of 1996-97. The balance works would be completed in 1997-98. The first phase of the project is expected to be completed at a cost of Rs. 29.50 crores.

(c) The number of students admitted for the academic session beginning in September, 1996 was 32. However, after completion of hostel block, the annual intake of students is likely to go upto 40. At present, 10 posts of faculty have been sanctioned for the institute. Out of these 10 posts, 6 posts (Dean-1, Assistant Professor-2, Lecturer-3) have been filled in. In addition, the institute invites guest faculty to take classes, depending upon the Institute's requirements.

(d) Diploma courses in 4 disciplines, namely, Direction, Motion Picture Photography, Editing and Sound Recording have already started with effect from 2nd September, 1996.

Shortage of Wagon in Kerala

2947. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the inadequacy of Railway Wagons affect the smooth movement of foodgrains to the godown in Kerala;

(b) whether the Railways consider to provide sufficient rakes/wagons to Kerala for carrying commodities for public distribution; and

(c) if so, the time by which the rakes/wagons are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Public Distribution System requirement of Kerala is met by the Railways for foodgrains.

Indo-Japanese Cooperation for Safety of Indian Rail Network

2948. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the annual general meeting of the Indo-Japanese working group held in January, 1996, Japan has agreed to extend its cooperation to improve safety of Indian Rail network;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement; and

(c) the aid proposed to be given by Japan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There was no annual general meeting of the Indo-Japanese working group held in 1996.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

V.R.S. In Public Sector

2949. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "New V.R.S. likely in new year" appearing in '*Financial Express*' dated December 27, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated new Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the employees employed in Public Sector industries;

(c) if so, the salient features of the scheme; and

(d) the number of employees targetted to be given retirement under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Deptt. of Public Enterprises which is the administrative department for the formulation of policy for Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Central Public Sector Undertakings, and the department cited in the newspaper item mentioned, have not submitted/proposed any liberalisation in the Voluntary Retirement Scheme other than the scheme already in vogue.

(c) to (d) Does not arise.